



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

March 30, 1998

By Overnight Express and First Class Mail

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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RE: CC Docket 98-11: Bell Atlantic Petition for Relief From
Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications
Services under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act
of 1996

DA 98-184: Comments on the Bell Petition

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am filing these Comments on behalf of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PaPUC) regarding the Petition of Bell Atlantic for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services under Section 706 of the TA-96.

I have also enclosed a copy to be time-stamped and returned to me in a stamped-self addressed envelope. I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Witmer,
Assistant Counsel
PaPUC Law Bureau
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265
(717) 787-3663

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CC Docket No. 98-11
Bell Section 706 Petition
Comments of the PaPUC
April 1, 1998

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

Petition of Bell Atlantic Corporation, Inc)
for Relief from Barriers to Deployment)
of Advanced Telecommunications)
Services under Section 706 of the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996)

CCB Docket No. 98-11

**COMMENTS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
ON BELL ATLANTIC'S SECTION 706 PETITION**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to FCC Public Notice DA 98-184 released on January 30, 1998, and amended by subsequent public notice, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PaPUC) submits these Comments on the Petition of Bell Atlantic Corporation, Inc. (Bell) for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TA-96). The PaPUC incorporates the comments of the other parties to this proceeding to the extent they are consistent with the Comment and position of the PaPUC.

II. THE PENNSYLVANIA POSITION

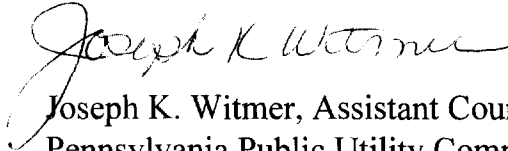
1. The PaPUC supports deployment of an advanced telecommunications network under Section 706 of the TA-96 so long as that deployment is consistent with the statutory goals of the TA-96 and Pennsylvania's own statutory provisions at 66 Pa.C.S. §§3001, et seq. (Chapter 30) dealing with the same subject. The PaPUC believes that the spirit and letter of the TA-96 and Chapter 30 support deployment of an advanced telecommunications system, as well as the new services arising under these laws.

2. The PaPUC supports other equally important provisions of Chapter 30 and the TA-96 which envision the competitive delivery of services provided with an advanced telecommunications network. The PaPUC believes that any Section 706 determination or actions taken under Section 706 must be consistent with the other provisions of the TA-96 including, but not limited to, Section 271 of the TA-96.

3. The PaPUC is submitting this Comment in support of that view. The PaPUC also plans to file Reply Comments addressing this Comment and the PaPUC's

position, as well as the position and comment of the other commenting parties, in subsequent filings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph K. Witmer".

Joseph K. Witmer, Assistant Counsel
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Frank Wilmarth, Deputy Chief Counsel
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bohdan R. Pankiw, Acting Chief Counsel
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Joseph K. Witmer, hereby certify that I have on this 31st day of March, 1998, served a true and correct copy of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Comments on the Bell Petition at CC Docket 98-11 and DA 98-184 upon the person and in the manner indicated below:

Via Fed-ex Overnight Delivery

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Via First-Class Mail

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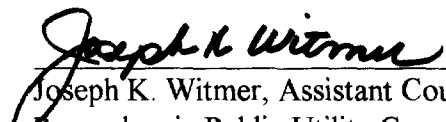
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